



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE'S NATIONAL GANG CRACKDOWN REACHES 155 ARRESTS

15 MS-13 Members Arrested in Miami Since the Inception of Operation Community Shield

MIAMI –Fifteen members of the violent street gang Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS-13) have been arrested here since the Feb. 23rd launch of the new nationwide anti-gang initiative led by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The 15 dangerous gang members arrested to date are accused of violations that range from felony charges of kidnapping and armed robbery to assault and weapons possession. Included in these arrests are:

- Edwin Reyes - A citizen of Honduras, who was in the country illegally, was charged with possessing firearms in violation of 18 USC 922. Reyes was found in downtown Miami pushing a shopping cart carrying two .22-caliber rifles and one shotgun. Reyes is in Marshals custody awaiting the outcome of the federal criminal charges presented against him. Reyes also faces administrative charges for being in the country illegally.
- Melvin Herrera- A citizen of El Salvador, who was in the country illegally, was charged with possessing marijuana, strong-armed robbery, and kidnapping. Herrera has been placed in removal proceedings for violating immigration laws. He is in ICE custody at the Krome Detention Center awaiting the outcome of his case.

“We are committed to working with our law enforcement partners to ensure that the residents of South Florida are protected from egregious criminals who seek to terrorize our community,” said Jesus Torres, ICE special agent-in-charge of the Miami office. “We simply will not tolerate gang activity in our city, and we will use all of our law enforcement tools to thwart the criminal efforts of gangs such as the MS-13.”

Operation Community Shield is a nationwide ICE anti-gang initiative designed to disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute violent gang organizations by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities (both

criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting narcotics smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of assets.

This initiative also involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. The enforcement actions to date have been conducted in coordination with law enforcement at the federal, state, and local levels. ICE will also be working through its 54 Attache offices overseas to cooperate with foreign governments that are also experiencing gang problems, particularly those in Central America.

Under this operation, ICE uses intelligence on gang organizations and leadership provided by state and local authorities. This information is then used whenever possible to arrest, prosecute, and/or deport individual gang members.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.